GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4149
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
RESEARCH ON CROP VARIETIES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether research work on cultivating crop varieties requiring less water and improving yield in most of the desert and drought affected areas in Rajasthan has been conducted in agriculture laboratories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy for research and development on oilseed, groundnut and pulses with reference to soil of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present condition of oilseeds and pulses and other crops in desert/drought affected areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir. The research institutes of ICAR and the State Agricultural Universities, especially those in Rajasthan like the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, the Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, the Maharana Pratap Agricultural University, Udaipur, and their regional centers are working on development of crop varieties that require less water, and also on varieties that improve the production and productivity. Research on several integrated land management techniques, including management of soil, water, nutrient, pest control, etc. are also helping to improve the production from the land.

(b) The above researches have led to the successful development of several drought tolerant and short- duration crop varieties as well as management practices. The new drought-tolerant crop varieties useful for arid western Rajasthan include Bajra (pearlmillet) varieties like HHB-67, ICMH-356, RHB-30, Pusa-23 etc., Guar (clusterbean) varieties like Maru Guar, RGC 936, RGC 1002; Mo bean varieties like Maru Moth (JMM 259), CAZRI Moth-1, RMO 40, RMO 257; Kulthi (horsegram) varieties like Maru-Kulthi; Moor bean varieties like RMC 62 and K 091 and Cowpea varieties like Charodi 1, C 152, CAZC 10, etc. The varieties are helping the farmers of the region during the period of drought.

(c) & (d): A centrally sponsored scheme of Oil Seed Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 28 States including Rajasthan. 9 oilseeds crops including groundnut are covered under the scheme of OPP. Similarly, for the development of pulses a centrally sponsored scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/Union Territories including Rajasthan. Almost all the pulses including Guar and Moth which are specific to Rajasthan are also covered under the scheme of NPDP.

Under these schemes assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, seed minikits, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, micro nutrients, gypsum/pyrite etc. for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country including Rajasthan. Besides this, Front Line Demonstrations by ICAR and Block Demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized on farmer`s field for transfer of improved production and protection technologies.

(e) At present cereal crops are grown in 44% of the cropped area in arid western Rajasthan, while pulses are grown in about 19% area, and oilseeds in 8% area only. The present condition of oilseeds, pulses and other crops in the drought affected areas of Rajasthan is not satisfactory. However, the recent rains might increase the hope of revival of already sown crops of oilseeds and pulses in the state of Rajasthan.